

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2019

Election Notice

The next municipal election for the City of Garden City will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, to elect Mayor At-Large (currently held by Don Bethune) and three (3) members of City Council; District 2 (currently held by Debbie Ruiz), District 3 (currently held by Bruce Campbell), and District 4 (currently held by Rosetta Cody).

Qualifying Dates & Fees

Qualifying for the 2019 Municipal Election will begin on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. and conclude on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the office of the Clerk of Council at Garden City City Hall, 100 Central Avenue. The qualifying fee for Mayor is \$180 and City Council Member is \$108. The qualifying fee shall be paid to the Municipal Clerk (Qualifying Officer) at the time the Notice of Candidacy Affidavit is filed by the candidate at the time of qualifying. Qualifying fees can be paid by check, money order or cash.

Candidates will note that a “bounced” check from a candidate disqualifies the candidate from qualifying for the office unless error was made by bank, credit union, or other financial institution and notification of error was received by superintendent within two weeks after the deadline for qualifying.

Reference: O.C.G.A 21-2-131(a)(1)(B) and O.C.G.A 21-2-6(d) SEB Rule 183-1-10.01

Polling Places Within Garden City:

7-01	GARDEN CITY SENIOR CENTER	78 VARNEDOE AVENUE
7-05	WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	407 TALMADGE AVENUE
7-13	SOUTHSIDE FIRE TRAINING CENTER	1381 DEAN FOREST ROAD
8-03	SILK HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	4929 PINELAND DRIVE
8-13	SAVANNAH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	1599 CHATHAM PARKWAY
8-15	GARDEN CITY RECREATION CENTER	160B PRISCILLA D. THOMAS WAY

Prior to Election Day – confirm your registration and poll location by calling Voter Registration at 912-790-1520 or use the website poll locator at <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov>. Keep your residence and mailing address updated with the Voter Registration Office. The deadline for registering to vote in this election is October 7, 2019.

To obtain detailed information on absentee voting or early in-person voting contact: CHATHAM COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE, 1117 EISENHOWER DRIVE, SUITE E, P.O. BOX 13757, SAVANNAH, GA. 31416. TELEPHONE: (912) 790-1520

For more candidate and voter information, please visit the Georgia Secretary of State website at www.sos.ga.gov.

Running For Municipal Office

The Mayor and City Council serve four year staggered terms. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that at no time is the City Council composed of a full panel of freshmen members. There are presently no term limits for these positions. In order to qualify for the position of Mayor or City Council, you must meet the following requirements.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2019

Garden City Charter Requirements:

Eligibility - Section 2.02. (a)

- No person shall be eligible to serve as council member unless he or she has been a resident of Garden City, Georgia for a period of (1) one year immediately prior to the date of the election of the mayor or member of council.
- Shall reside in Garden City during his or her period of service.
- Shall be registered and qualified to vote in Chatham County elections, and qualified as required by law to vote in municipal elections in Garden City.
- Shall meet the qualifications required of a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, as they are now or may in the future be prescribed by the Constitution of Georgia.
 - Must be a citizen of the United States.
 - Shall be at least 21 years of age
 - Shall have been a citizen of Georgia for at least two years.

Qualifications for Mayor and City Council Member for Districts 2, 3, & 4 - Section 5.14

(a) No persons shall be a member of city council if that person is ineligible for such office pursuant to O.C.G.A. Code Section 45-2-1 of the O.C.G.A., any other general law applicable to that office, or any provision of this charter.

(b) As Mayor (At-Large):

- In order to be elected or appointed as Mayor, a person must have resided in the city for at least one year prior to election or appointment thereto and, if elected, must receive a plurality of votes cast for that office in the entire city.
- The mayor must continue to reside within the city during that person's term of office or that office shall become vacant.

(c) As a Member of the City Council from a District:

- In order to be elected or appointed as a member of the city council from a district, that person must have resided in that council district for a least (6) six months prior to the election or appointment thereto and, if elected must receive a plurality of votes cast for that office in that district only and not at large. Only electors who are residents of the council district may vote for a member of the council for that district.
- At the time of qualifying for election as a member of the city council for a council district, each candidate for such office shall specify the council district for which that person is a candidate.
- A person elected or appointed as a member of the city council from a council district must continue to reside in that district during that person's term of office or that office shall become vacant.

 *Reference the Garden City Council District Map www.gardencity-ga.gov to determine your district.*

Georgia Law Requirements:

- Shall not have been convicted and sentenced for fraudulent violation of primary or election laws, malfeasance in office, or felony involving moral turpitude.

Georgia Constitution Requirements:

- Must be a registered voter.
- Shall not have been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.
- Shall not be the holder of public funds illegally.

Definition): Felony involving moral turpitude – is one “constituting intentional violation of stature expressing moral judgment of the community against prohibited conduct.” (1998 op. Att’y Gen. No. 68-352)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2019

General

Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, and workshops on the second and fourth Monday. Special called Council meetings and workshops are called on an as-needed basis. Elected officials take office at the first council meeting in the January following the election. Once elected, the Mayor and all members of Council must continue to reside in the City of Garden City during their periods of service and remain registered voters.

Compensation for elected officials is as follows: Currently, the Mayor receives \$500 per month and members of City Council \$300 per month. *Note: Effective January 1, 2020, the Mayor will begin receiving \$800 per month and members of City Council \$500 per month.*

Forms & Reports

As a candidate you are responsible for compliance with registration, reporting, and record keeping requirements. If you fail to timely file, you could be subject to statutory late fees. Provided below are the forms and reports that a candidate running for public office will be required to file under the Campaign Finance Act with the City of Garden City Municipal Clerk and the Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission.

Forms/Reports:

- 1) **Notice of Candidacy Affidavit (Form NOCA)** – Must be filed at the time of qualifying to run for public office.
- 2) **Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions (Form DOI)** – Must be filed PRIOR to accepting campaign contributions.
- 3) **Registration Form for a Candidate's Campaign Committee (Form RC)** – Must be filed if you have designated someone to file your reports or if anyone is collecting your contributions or expending your contributions, you have a campaign committee.
- 4) **Electronic Filing Access Code Application (Form CFC-PIN-APP)** – Used for identification purposes for candidates. Filed with the Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission.
- 5) **Affidavit of a Candidate's Intent Not to Exceed \$2,500 in Contributions and/or Expenditures (Form CAO)** – Must be filed by a candidate who *does not* intend to accept during such election cycle a combined total of contributions exceeding \$2,500 for the campaign and not make combined total of expenditures exceeding \$2,500 for the campaign in such election cycle.
- 6) **Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (Form CCDR)** – Must be filed September 30, October 25, and December 31 by a candidate who intends to exceed \$2,500 in Contributions and/or Expenditures in an election cycle.
- 7) **Two Business Day Report (Form TBD)** – Must be filed within two-business days of receipt of all contributions (including loans) of \$1,000 or more.
- 8) **Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (PFD)** – Must be filed no later than the fifteenth (15th) day following the date of qualifying as a candidate.

Interested candidates should familiarize themselves with the reporting requirements and guidelines set forth by the Georgia Government Transparency Campaign Finance Commission at www.ethics.ga.gov.